



SO ORDERED.

SIGNED November 09, 2005.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gerald H. Schiff", is written over a horizontal line.

**GERALD H. SCHIFF
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE**

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

IN RE:

BELL FAMILY TRUST

CASE NO. 02-50477

Debtor

CHAPTER 7

BELL FAMILY TRUST

Plaintiff

VERSUS

ADV. PROCEEDING NO. 02-5045

MARY SUE BELL, et al

Defendants

MEMORANDUM RULING

Presently before the court is the Motion by Amerada Hess Corporation for Award of Fees and Costs ("Motion"). W. Simmons Sandoz ("Trustee"), the chapter 7 trustee filed an objection to the Motion. A hearing on the Motion was held on October 18, 2005.

After hearing argument from counsel, the matter was taken under advisement.

Amerada Hess did not take part in the extensively contested aspects of this litigation, but rather filed an interpleader in order to deposit funds into the registry. Early in the litigation, an order was entered which provided that Amerada Hess was not required to participate any further following deposits of funds. The fees sought include work performed in connection with four distinct matters: (1) the filing of the interpleader, obtaining an order on same and depositing funds into the registry of the court; (2) issues related to the entry of the interpleader order; (3) a motion for summary judgment seeking to dismiss the interpleader; and (4) the entry of a final judgment.

The court has reviewed the detailed records of counsel for Amerada Hess. The court finds that the requested compensation for the time spent in relation to the entry of the interpleader order and the motion for summary judgment are reasonable. However, as to the other two categories, the court finds that the level of involvement of counsel was unnecessary. The court will allow all fees and expenses related to the second and third categories. As to the first category, the court will allow a total of \$5,000 in fees and expenses. As to the fourth category, the court will allow a total of 5 hours at the rate of \$275 per hour. Within 10 days,

counsel for Amerada Hess shall submit an order in conformity with the foregoing.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

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